

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of packets ~~packet~~ at a plurality of first locations in a first switching device ~~from a location~~ operatively coupled to ~~the first~~ a second switching device, the first switching device to transmit the plurality of packets to a plurality of second locations in the ~~packet for packet transmission to a second switching device operatively coupled to the first switching device,~~ each second location configured to receive packets from one or more first locations and other second locations; [[and]]

receiving a message for regulating packet flow on the first switching device from the second switching device, the message identifying a congested second location in the second switching device; and ~~indicating to slow packet transmission to the second switching device.~~

slowing packet transmission from the first switching device to the second switching device in response to receiving the message.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein slowing packet transmission comprises ~~further comprising:~~

slowing packet transmission from the first switching device to [[a]] the congested second location ~~[[port]]~~ in the second switching device.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

transmitting from a first switching device to a second switching device ~~[[,]]~~ operatively coupled to the first switching device, a message that indicates to regulate ~~[[slow]]~~ packet transmission to the first switching device, the first switching device receiving ~~a packet~~ packets for packet transmission from at least one of one or more of first locations at the first switching device and one or more of second locations at the second switching device, the packet received from a location source operatively coupled to the second switching device, the message transmitted upon determining that a first location where a packet is received is congested.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising:
transmitting the message from the second switching device to a third switching device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the first switching device includes an application-specific integrated circuit.

8. (Currently amended) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in a computer readable medium, the computer program product when executed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising ~~being operable to cause a machine to:~~

~~receive~~ receiving a plurality of packets ~~packet~~ at a plurality of first locations in a first switching device ~~from a location~~ operatively coupled to ~~the first~~ a second switching device, the first switching device to transmit the plurality of packets to a plurality of second locations in the ~~packet for packet transmission to a second switching device operatively~~

~~coupled to the first switching device, each second location configured to receive packets from one or more first locations and other second locations; [[and]]~~

~~receive receiving a message for regulating packet flow on the first switching device from the second switching device, the message identifying a congested second location in the second switching device; and indicating to slow packet transmission to the second switching device.~~

slowing packet transmission from the first switching device to the second switching device in response to receiving the message.

9. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 8, the operations further comprising:

[[slow]] slowing packet transmission from the first switching device to [[a]] the congested second location [[port]] in the second switching device.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently amended) A computer program product, tangibly embodied in a computer readable medium, the computer program product when executed by a machine causes the machine to perform operations comprising ~~being operable to cause a machine to:~~

transmitting from a first switching device to a second switching device[[,]] operatively coupled to the first switching device, a message that indicates to regulate [[slow]] packet transmission to the first switching device, the first switching device receiving ~~a packet~~ packets for packet transmission from

at least one of one or more of first locations at the first switching device and one or more of second locations at the second switching device, the packet received from a ~~location~~ source operatively coupled to the second switching device, the message transmitted upon determining that a first location where a packet is received is congested.

13. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 12, the operations further comprising being further operable to cause a machine to:

~~transmit~~ transmitting the message from the second switching device to a third switching device.

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the first switching device includes an application-specific integrated circuit.

15. (Currently amended) A message manager comprises:
a process to receive on a first switching device a message from a second switching device that indicates to regulate ~~[[slow]]~~ packet transmission to the second switching device, the first switching device operatively coupled to a port for packet transmission, wherein the message identifies a congested port in the second switching device.

16. (Original) The message manager of claim 15 further comprising:

a process to transmit from the first switching device to the second switching device a message that indicates to slow packet transmission to the first switching device.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a first switching device including a plurality of first locations, the first switching device configured to perform operations comprising,

transmitting a plurality of packets ~~packet~~ to one or more second locations at a second switching device, each second location configured to receive packets from a first location or a second location;

in response to receiving a message from the second switching device to regulate packet flow, the message ~~identifying a congested second location that indicates to slow packet transmission to the second switching device,~~ slowing transmitting ~~the packet~~ packets to the congested second location ~~second switching device.~~

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the first switching device is further configured to perform operations comprising:

receiving a plurality of packets from the second switching device for packet transmission to one or more first locations, each first location configured to receive packets from other first locations or second locations;

transmitting to the second switching device a message that indicates to ~~[[slow]]~~ regulate packet transmission to the first switching device in response to determining that a first location is congested ~~receiving a packet from the second switching device.~~

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended) A network switch comprising:
a first application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC)
capable of receiving a message from a second ASIC that indicates
to [[slow]] regulate packet transmission to the second ASIC,
wherein the message identifies a congested port in the second
ASIC.

25. (Currently amended) The network switch of claim 24
wherein the first ASIC is capable of transmitting to the ASIC a
message that indicates to [[slow]] regulate packet transmission
to the first ASIC.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein slowing packet
transmission comprises stopping packet transmission from the
first switching device to the congested second location in the
second switching device.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a packet for
packet transmission to a destination second location is queued
at a sending first location.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising, in
response to receiving the message slowing transmission of the
packet from the first location, upon determining that the
destination second location is the congested second location.

30. (New) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein slowing packet transmission comprises stopping packet transmission from the first switching device to the congested second location in the second switching device.

31. (New) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein a packet for packet transmission to a destination second location is queued at a sending first location.

32. (New) The computer program product of claim 30, the operations further comprising, in response to receiving the message slowing transmission of the packet from the sending first location, upon determining that the destination second location is the congested second location.